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NINTH PLENUM SPEECH OF MICHALINA TATARKOWNA-MAJKOWSKA
ON THE LOCAL PARTY APPARATUS OF LODZ WOJEWODZTWO, POLAND

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[The following report of Michalina Tatarkowna-Majkowska, First Secretary of the Lodz Wojewodztwo Committee of the PZPR, was given at the Ninth Plenum of the KC PZPR (Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party), held in Warsaw on 29-30 October 1953.

The report was given at the ninth plenum as an amplification of the featured report of Premier Boleslaw Bierut, "Task of Party in Struggle to Raise Standard of Living of Workers in Current Phase of Building Socialism." An English-language translation of Bierut's report is available in the PAP (Polish Press Agency) release of 6 November 1953, pages 1-44]

Both Comrade Bierut's speech and the pregress theses show a deep concern for the working man.

The broad masses of the nation are participating in the realization of the Six-Year Plan and in the realization of the National Front program, because from the very inception of the building of People's Poland the party political line has always been sound, despite the difficulties the party encountered during the various periods. The working masses have always been convinced of its soundness, as proved by the success of the various campaigns and programs achieved in the face of serious opposition and sharp class warfare in city and village.

In the current grain purchasing drive we have come up against serious opposition from the class enemy, who has been able at times to influence certain peasant groups.

In the first period of the purchasing drive, many powiats of Lodz Wojewodztwo did not clearly understand that one must begin "in one's own back yard," that is, by checking on the attitude of party members and activists. There have been instances in Leczyce Powiat, Lesmierz Gmina, where 10- and 13-hectare landholders who were party members had not even started to make their compulsory deliveries. Naturally, individual peasant farmers who were not party members followed their example. The gmina committee tolerated this state of affairs and made no attempt to break down this attitude of the party members.

It is not surprising that in Leczyce and Sieradz powiats, which still had many village officials who had not settled their accounts with the state, there was great opposition to the grain purchasing drive. In Skierniewice, on the other hand, where party members and activists have fulfilled deliveries 100 percent, more than 90 percent of the plan had already been achieved.

It was during this drive that it became very clear that some activists did not understand the essential meaning of the party and government policy toward the village, and did not comprehend the essential meaning of the Lenin three-in-one formula. In certain areas, we have been unable thus far to win the support of the small peasant farmers and draw them into this program.

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In Lowicz, 1,378 of the total of 5,152 one- to three-hectare farms have not even started to make deliveries. The situation is similar in other powiats. However, where powiat committees and powiat groups were able to make the proper approach to the small peasant farmers, the results were favorable.

A significant weakness in our work in the village so far, one which undoubtedly influenced the purchasing drive, was our one-sided viewpoint of the economic alliance. We did not understand or appreciate the fact that the economic alliance cannot be based on compulsory deliveries alone, but must also include the supply of the village with consumer goods. Many powiat committees do not understand that the problem of trade is also a political problem, that the strengthening of the worker-peasant alliance depends largely on the work of the distribution commissions of the powiat councils, or on the PZGS (Powiat Administration of the Gmina Cooperatives) and GS (Gmina Cooperatives). In the course of the purchasing drive, we inspected the status of supplies in the villages of our wojewodztwo. It was found that in some supply offices scandalous neglect and bureaucracy prevailed. The total number of unfilled orders from all powiats was 24,959. This included 579 orders from persons whose property had burned down and 1,032 orders held over from 1952.

Obviously hundreds of peasants had waited many months for the allocation of a few bricks, a few meters of cement, or a few necessary boards. I want Comrade Janczyk [President of the Central Cooperative Council of the Union of Peasant Self-Help] to know that in almost all the powiats examined there were various cases of waste, such as the one in Wielun, where 200,000 bricks became useless while in storage.

The important task of increasing per-hectare yields which the party has set before the peasants demands increased allocation of credits, although we must admit that we have not used up the credits previously allotted us. Some small peasant farmers have been planting without using artificial fertilizers. We have used only 94 million of the 100 million zlotys allotted by the state for the liquidation of fallow lands. At present, the party echelons and people's councils are beginning to show more interest in supplying the village with consumer goods. Pending orders are being examined, and mistakes and shortcomings in the distribution apparatus are gradually being removed. A report on orders pending shows that we shall somehow supply the required cement and bricks but not the lumber. However, it is not always a question of material shortages; there is often a lack of interest on the part of the PZGS or the gmina councils.

Looking over the grain purchasing drive so far, it is apparent that the wojewodztwo organization is gradually eliminating mistakes and weaknesses, and the party echelons are gradually beginning to comprehend the over-all problems connected with strengthening the worker-peasant alliance.

It is the responsibility of our powiat and gmina committees to expand the village party organization by accepting into the party the most loyal peasants, those who have carried out their responsibilities to the state and who have been most active in the grain purchasing drive.

The present plenum has made the raising of the material and cultural level of the working man its central theme. Because of the great tasks facing the party organizations, we must increase our efforts to raise the political level of the workers in the party apparatus. We must give the party workers special attention and timely criticism to help them overcome the weaknesses which detract from the stature of a party member.

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This is a very important problem because the tasks facing us require imagination and strength to withstand the enemy's ideological pressures. The level of our party workers, politically and morally, must be very high.

The party leadership in our wojewodztwo must take a greater interest in the workers in the party apparatus than heretofore. Except for a few instances of warping the party line, most party members are devoted workers with high party ethics who deserve more interest on our part.

The strengthening of our political work in the city and in the village will strengthen the worker-peasant alliance and assure the realization of the guiding principles of the Ninth Plenum in Lodz Wojewodztwo.

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